

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

DO NOT

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/J. M./

/A. J. F. / **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for generating characterizing information including a plurality of descriptors for a selected block of printed material, , said method comprising the steps of:

- a) scanning said printed material;
- b) applying a predetermined set of algorithms for computing characterizing information;
- c) determining estimates of robustness for each algorithm in said predetermined set of algorithms;
- d) selecting, as a function of said estimates, a combination of descriptors generated by a corresponding combination of said algorithms as said characterizing information;
- e) including said characterizing information into a secure indicia;
- f) scanning said indicia and said printed block; and
- g) determining uniqueness of said indicia using information obtained from step f.